

To whom it may concern,

Throughout my 14 years of life, I have worked the school years volunteering and working with a tedious school workload. During summer breaks, I enjoyed the luxury of using West Lake for swimming and spending time with family away from the naggings of work-life like many others. However, during the summer of 2021, that all changed. Herbicide usage had negatively affected the lake by graciously providing it with an unfavorable appearance, possibly ecologically damaging chemicals, and making it dangerous to swim in. These problems alone are bad enough, but to make matters worse, specific dates were not provided to West Lake residents to stay out of the waters for herbicide dumping. Instead, West Lake residents were provided an assortment of 71 dates that the lake might be dangerous to swim in. Over the recent summer, the lake was filled with herbicides, which ironically caused worse weed blooms on the other side of the lake. This weed blooming was so profuse that it gave the lake the appearance of a shimmering galaxy. Sure, nebulae look beautiful in the sky, but they certainly do not give off the same effect in the lake I swim in during the summer months.

The introduction of herbicides adversely affected the lake and took away a summer of fun and play for myself and many others. At the very least, notifications need to be sent out with the specific dates that herbicides are dumped so that I, and many others, know when it is safe to swim.

Sincerely,  
Mason Jakober